



## Veterans Day 2001

On November 11th, our nation pauses on Veterans Day to honor those American men and women who served our country in uniform. This year, two short months after suffering the most horrific act of war in our country's history, it is only right that we pay tribute to those whose sacrifices and selfless service purchased for us the privileges of freedom, democracy and unmatched opportunity that we enjoy in the United States — the greatest country on earth. From the first battle of the American Revolution through our ongoing war against terrorism, in conflicts that shook the foundation of civilization and in humanitarian missions that saved countless lives, our veterans provided the sword and shield that protected our nation.

Veterans Day also provides an opportunity for us to thank the soldiers serving in the Army today, continuing the great legacy of those veterans who marched before us. Your determination, your readiness and your willingness to go where you are needed, when you are needed, are potent symbols of liberty, justice and hope for freedom-loving people the world over. The memory of our fallen comrades lost in the horrible and unprovoked acts of war against our nation on Sept. 11 is a stark reminder that our forces today are, as always, on point for our nation.

Each day you serve, you voluntarily forego comfort and wealth. You face hardship and sacrifice in defending the nation's security and spreading the blessing of democracy to others in countries around the world, from Korea to Kosovo. Your actions in a multitude of missions — humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, peacekeeping, warfighting — animate the Army core values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. Your service ensures we never fail in our non-negotiable contract with the American people — to fight and win our nation's wars. You constantly amaze us with the strength of your dedication and your unwavering morale.

To all of you, whether far from home or here in the United States, thank you for your contributions and your countless sacrifices. It is an honor to serve with you, and we could not be more proud of the great work you are doing. You carry on the legacy of valor and service that soldiers before you established.

And so on this day of reflection and tribute, our grateful nation thanks our veterans — those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, those still serving, those no longer in uniform, young and old — for all they have done and continue to do for our great country. We pledge to you our tireless efforts to ensure that the Army remains the world's pre-eminent warfighting land force, the most esteemed institution in the nation and the most respected army in the world.

ERIC K. SHINSEKI  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

THOMAS E. WHITE  
Secretary of the Army

**Fort Lee, Va.**

## DeCA to Give Scholarships

APPLICATIONS for the second annual Defense Commissary Agency/Fisher House Foundation Scholarships for Military Children Program will be available beginning Nov. 1 at your local commissary and for download at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com).

Almost 400 scholarships were awarded this year, and the agency expects to award even more scholarships in 2002, said Defense Commissary Agency Director, Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter Jr. Qualified children of U.S.

military ID card holders, including active duty, retirees, and Guard and Reserve members, may apply for the \$1,500 scholarships. Eligibility of applicants, including survivors of deceased members, will be determined using the DOD ID Card Directive. The deadline for filing applications is Feb. 5.

Two major changes are in store for the 2002 program.

First, students will not have to show ID at the commissary when turning in their applications, and applicants who don't live near a commissary can mail their applications to their closest commissary locations.

Also, student eligibility will be verified through the Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Re-

porting System before scholarships are awarded. Sponsors should ensure their children are enrolled in DEERS before applying for a scholarship.

A permanent information page for the Scholarships for Military Children Program has been added to [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com). — *DeCA Public Affairs Office*

**Washington, D.C.**

## Myers Sworn in as JCS Chief

AIR Force Gen. Richard B. Myers became the 15th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on Sept. 30, succeeding GEN Henry H. Shelton as the president's top military adviser.

Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace succeeded Myers as vice chairman. Pace is the first Marine to serve as vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs. Myers was confirmed on Sept. 14.

"Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and I thought long and hard about this important choice, and we enthusiastically agree that the right man to preserve the best traditions of our armed forces, while challenging them to innovate to

meet the threats of the future, is Gen. Richard B. Myers," President George W. Bush said when nominating Myers.

Bush called Myers, who was vice chairman from March 2000 until his appointment as chairman, an officer "of steady resolve and determined leadership" who "understands that the strengths of America's armed forces are our people and our technological superiority. And we must invest in both."

Myers was a fighter pilot in Vietnam, is a former commander of U.S. Space Command and was the assistant to former JCS chairman GEN John Shalikashvili. Rumsfeld characterized Myers' career as "the embodiment of the transformation with which he will be charged as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff."

Pace, a former deputy commander of U.S. Forces, Japan, has served "from the jungles of southeast Asia to the streets of Mogadishu," Rumsfeld said.

Under the leadership of Myers and Pace "the men and women of the U.S. armed forces are in fine hands," Rumsfeld said. — *American Forces Press Service*

## Uniform Update

### Beret Fielding Next Year

ABOUT 750,000 Army black berets have already been delivered, but there are still troops at more than 17 active-duty installations waiting to don the new headgear.

U.S. Army, Europe, is scheduled to be the last active-duty command to receive them, in March. In May the Army announced that not all soldiers would receive berets by June 14, the Army's birthday.

An updated fielding plan states that berets will be shipped monthly and initial fielding should end in April for the National Guard and Reserve.

Delays in the earlier fielding plan was a result of one of the manufacturers temporarily shutting down and the Army's decision to set aside berets for sustainment purposes, said Jack Hooper, a Defense Logistics Agency spokesman.

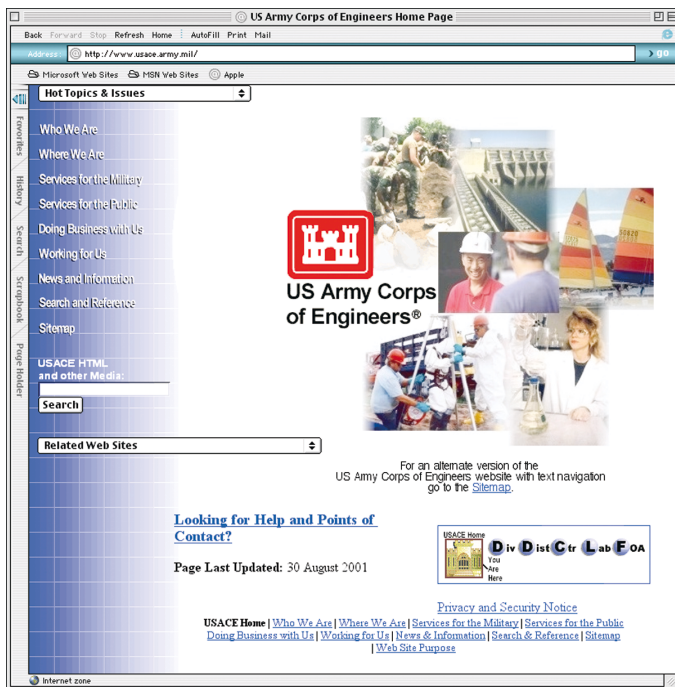
Bancroft Cap, the sole U.S. manufacturer, is now making the black berets again, as well as green, tan and maroon berets. It is working to establish a second textile factory shop, Hooper said.

The Army also decided to set aside a number of berets to sustain soldiers who have already received their first berets, Hooper said, rather than waiting until all Army personnel received their initial issue.

Dorothea Knitting Mills in Toronto, Canada, is the only other company currently under contract to produce Army berets. The company is shipping its berets on schedule to DLA storage depots, according to DLA's Logistics Policy and Acquisition Management. — *Army News Service*



**USAF Gen. Richard B. Myers became the 15th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on Sept. 30. Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace succeeded Myers as JCS vice chairman.**



**The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' website (www.usace.army.mil) is one of several sites authorized to publish official forms and publications.**

## Washington

### Official Sites for Forms Listed

TO ensure that users of Army publications are provided a reputable source for accessing official Army publications and forms on-line, the Army has designated "official websites" to serve as hosts to publish departmental administrative, training and doctrinal, and technical and equipment publications and forms.

By establishing a limited number of official websites, the Army minimizes its potential litigation risks, reduces the confusion created by duplication of effort, and prevents unauthorized information or drafts from being published to the Army and the public as official policy.

Designating an official website ensures that customers Armywide have access to the most recent and creditable

version of a publication or form.

The five official websites are:

- U.S. Army Publishing Agency, **www.usapa.army.mil**, for administrative departmental publications and forms (e.g., Army Regulations, Circulars, Pamphlets, Optional and Standard Forms, and Department of the Army Forms).
- U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) Logistics Support Activity, **www.logsa.army.mil**, for technical and equipment departmental publications (e.g., Technical Manuals and Supply Catalogs).
- U.S. Army Training Support Center, **www.adtdl.army.mil**, for training and doctrinal departmental publications (e.g., Field Manuals, Training Circulars and Soldier Training Publications).
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, **www.usace.army.mil**, for training and doctrinal departmental publications with en-

gineering and design criteria.

- The Surgeon General/Medical Command, **www.army.medicine.army.mil**, for training and doctrinal departmental publications with medical content (e.g., TMs, Technical Bulletins and Supply Bulletins). — *U.S. Army Publishing Agency*

## Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina

### Area Support Group Activated in Bosnia

AREA Support Group Eagle was activated recently in a ceremony at Eagle Base, Bosnia. The ASG had been serving in Hungary as the United States Army Support Element, Taszar. That organization was concurrently inactivated.

The ASG was moved to Eagle Base to support the Task Force Eagle commander, so he can focus on the overall mission of maintaining stability in

Bosnia without having to be as concerned with support issues, said COL William Haass, the ASG commander.

During the ASG Eagle activation ceremony MG Walter Sharp, the commander of Multinational Division (North), said: "The addition of the ASG will allow the TFE troops to focus more completely on our patrolling, compliance inspections and engagement tasks. Their presence will allow us to more efficiently accomplish SFOR's mission in Bosnia."

The ASG is responsible for the welfare of soldiers through oversight of dining facilities, commanding the guard force and undertaking mail service. Troop morale is addressed by coordinating with the morale, welfare and recreation office, officials said.

The ASG is preparing to take over some missions that have been previously handled

## Veterans News

### VA Creates Regional Liaisons to Veterans Groups

SECRETARY of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi recently announced the creation of a new network of regional liaison officers who will work with state and local elements of veterans service organizations, or VSOs.

"VSOs are our partners in developing solutions, as well as in identifying problems," Principi said. "By strengthening our ties to the VSOs at the state and local levels, we can improve VA's service to America's veterans."

The six regional liaisons will be stationed throughout the country according to veteran population and geographical areas. They will be located in Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.

Working with community-based veterans' organizations, including state directors of veterans affairs, the liaisons will attend conventions, meetings and other functions to facilitate communications between veterans and the VA. They will also coordinate outreach activities to inform veterans and the public of VA programs.

John W. Smart, director of VSO Liaisons, will coordinate the regional liaisons from VA's Central Office in Washington, D.C. — *Department of Veterans Affairs PAO*



by infantry units.

"We're simply assuming the command-and-control functions. We'll still have the same number of towers. The same number of troops will still be

required for guard mount," Haass said.

The ASG doesn't just serve on Eagle Base, though.

Haass explained that area support teams at Camp

McGovern and Camp Comanche are remote links to the ASG, allowing the Area Support Group to service those bases' needs as well. — ARNEWS

## Benefits News

### SGLI Expands to Include Spouses, Children

THE Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance plan will also cover soldiers' spouses and eligible children, beginning Nov. 1.

The Veterans' Opportunities Act of 2001, signed by President George W. Bush last spring, allows for up to \$100,000 coverage for military spouses and \$10,000 coverage for each child.

If the service member has SGLI coverage of \$100,000 or more, maximum coverage for the spouse will be automatic, and premiums will be deducted along with the member's premium from each month's pay. If the service member carries less than \$100,000 coverage, however, the spouse's coverage can be no higher than the member's premium, said Navy Capt. Chris Kopang, the Defense Department's director of compensation.

Premiums will be based on amount of coverage elected and the spouse's age, he said.

Coverage for children up to age 18, or 23 if a full-time student, is free and automatic, so long as the member is participating in SGLI, Kopang said. Eligible reserve-component members will receive the same family-member coverage, with premiums being deducted from their drill pay, he said.

If soldiers do not want insurance coverage for their spouses or want a reduced amount of coverage, they must have submitted form SGLV-8286A, "Family Coverage Election," to their personnel officers prior to Nov. 1 to avoid making payments for insurance.

Service members married to other service members are also automatically eligible for up to \$350,000 in coverage.

Eligibility for spouse and children's coverage would end if the member terminates coverage, separates, retires, dies, or if the couple divorces. However, spouse coverage will extend 120 days past the date eligibility ends.

"That will give the spouse the opportunity to convert their policy to a commercial policy," Kopang said.

Spouse coverage can be converted to commercial policies when the service member separates from the military, but cannot be converted to the Veterans' Group Life Insurance plan.

For more information go to [www.insurance.va.gov/sglivgli/sglifam.htm](http://www.insurance.va.gov/sglivgli/sglifam.htm). — AFPS

## Washington

### Defense of Freedom Medal Unveiled

SECRETARY of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced on Sept. 27 the creation of the Defense of Freedom medal to honor Department of Defense civilian employees injured or killed in the line of duty.

The medal will be the civilian equivalent of the Purple Heart. The first recipients to be honored will be DOD civilians injured or killed in the terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

At the secretary of defense's discretion, the medal may be awarded to such non-DOD employees as contractors, based on their involvement in DOD activities.

The medal, a golden circle framing a bald eagle holding a

shield, "exemplifies the principles of freedom and the defense of those freedoms upon which our nation is founded," DOD officials said. The back reads "On Behalf of a Grateful Nation," followed by a space for the recipient's name. A laurel wreath represents honor and high achievement. The ribbon is red, white and blue. The red stripes commemorate valor and sacrifice. The wide blue stripe represents strength. The white stripes symbolize liberty as represented in our national flag. The number of red stripes represents the four terrorist attacks using hijacked airplanes, and the single blue stripe represents the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

"This medal acknowledges civilian employees of the Department of Defense and other civilians in service to the Department of Defense who are killed or injured while on duty," said Charles S. Abell, assistant secretary of defense for force management policy. "It reinforces the total-force concept that makes our nation so strong." — DOD News



The new medal honors DOD civilian employees and other civilians in DOD service who are killed or injured while on duty.